

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2017

Present: Julia Lane, Kylie Williams and Scott Moles. Claire Ann Scaramella absent.
Julia called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Public Comment

No general public comment, as all the attendees were there regarding 70 Lake Shore Drive.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Julia and seconded by Kylie to approve the 6/8/17 minutes. All in favor.

Approval of Bills

The following bills were approved and signed:

Century Health Systems, VNA	\$66.00
Stantec – Covanta Compliance Officer	\$259.50

Natick Visiting Nurses Association Contract

Scott discussed the FY'18 VNA contract with the Board. The rate has increased by \$9/hour to \$75/hour. This is still the lowest rate for surrounding towns, and Scott recommended that the Board continue the contract.

Julia motioned to renew the Natick VNA contract for FY'18. Kylie seconded. Passed

Health Director's Report

Positions to post: Animal Inspector, and Back-up Agent – Scott met with Mary Bousquet, Town Treasurer, regarding the posting of these 2 open positions. Scott will meet with Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator, on Monday. If the Board has any comments on these job descriptions they should get them to Scott by Monday. The positions will be posted on Tuesday, and close by 7-7-17. The applicants will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Meeting schedule for BoH: Julia cannot attend the July 27 meeting, but all Board members should be available for the July 13 meeting.

Covanta

- A complaint was received regarding a gate left open. It was investigated by Scott and turned out to be a 3rd party inspector at Covanta. The gate was closed that afternoon.
- The recent rains have allowed the rain testing and the results have been received.

Lake Winthrop Beach Water test results have been good. The lifeguards are now doing the water sampling.

Brooksmont, the 66 unit over 55 community, septic system has been started by Pulte.

Flu Clinic Reimbursement: We received \$6000 reimbursement and expect to be getting more soon.

Summitpointe Drive, Lot 4: Someone moved the well stake a few feet, requiring the septic plan be changed to maintain the required distance. Scott waived the fee for the revision.

Mosquito & Tick season is upon us. We received reports on weekly testing of 103 pools. So far no remarkable findings.

70 Lake Shore Drive

Julia opened the nuisance meeting at 7:15 as scheduled in the June 13, 2017 letter to Rebecca Brodie, the owner of 70 Lake Shore Drive (attached). Rebecca was emailed this letter on June 13, and again June 15. A regular mail and a certified letter was sent on June 13 (receipt refused). And a copy of the letter was put on the door of 70 Lake Shore Drive by Scott on 6-16-17. Rebecca texted Dona Walsh, Holliston's Animal Control Officer (ACO) before this meeting saying she didn't know about the meeting. Rebecca told Dona that she did receive the Holliston Water Department's notice put on her door (in the same fashion as the BoH letter) on 6-21-17.

Scott had spoken to Rebecca's husband and legal counsel Andrew Brodie who said he knew about the letter and he understood what it meant. Andrew didn't attend this meeting either. The meeting was attended by Dona Walsh, ACO; Brianna Gladu, Assistant ACO; Sgt. Matthew Waugh, Holliston Police Department (HPD); PJ Kilkelly, Holliston Agricultural Commission; Paul Saulnier, Holliston Reporter; and 7 neighbors.

Scott updated the Board on the nuisance issues reviewing his June 22, 2017 memo for discussion (attached). Rebecca was directed (in the 6-13-17 letter) to demonstrate improvements to the nuisance items by 6-22-17. As of end of business 6-22-17, Rebecca had not replied to Scott's letter. The sheds still have not been permitted with the Town (Building and Health Departments).

Today, 6-22-17, Rebecca sent a check to the Elizabeth Greendale, Town Clerk for the dog license, but no paperwork or Rabies Certificate so the licensing is not complete. Elizabeth emailed Rebecca requesting the necessary documents.

Dona Walsh updated the Board on her interactions with Rebecca (Incident Report attached). The conditions for the animals at 70 Lake Shore Drive continue to be not appropriate. The fencing is not adequate and the animals continue to be loose off the property. Dona is trying to maintain an amicable relationship with Rebecca and only regard herself with the welfare of the animals, leaving the issue of number of animals on the property as a Town of Holliston issue.

The Darlene Wood, Director Massachusetts Animal Rescue League has visited 70 Lake Shore Drive. And Officer Nadia Moreno from MSPCA Law Enforcement Unit has also been called in. On June 8, the 4 goats were roaming off the property and taken into custody by Dona, as Rebecca did not come out to retrieve them.

That evening, Darlene, Rebecca and Andrew met, and the 3 baby goats were returned to Rebecca under the conditions that she: secure the fence so no animals get loose, clean up the areas where the animals are, and add ventilation to the crates. On Tuesday June 13, Rebecca picked up the adult goat from Dona and took it to a farm in Lunenburg. Rebecca said the goat would stay there until she got secure fencing up. Rebecca has since put up a wire fence which Dona said is not appropriate.

PJ Kilkelly of the Holliston Agricultural Commission having viewed 70 Lake Shore Drive, said the lot was too small and not adequately fenced to maintain the reported amount of animals (letter attached). The Agricultural Commission meeting is next week and Scott will attend.

School Resource Officer, Bryan DiGiorgio has been informed of the situation. He is in contact with the Assistant School Superintendent, who is responsible for overseeing homeschooling. Scott is concerned how the farm animals in the house effect the children.

There is still no animal waste storage plan, and the water run-off from the animal waste is with-in 120' of Lake Winthrop. The run-off in the winter will be worse on frozen ground as there will be no leaching. This is in Water Resource Area Zone 2. There was questions about how the animals effect the function of the septic system. There appear to be several dozen farm animals on the 10,000 square foot lot.

The HPD and the BoH continue to receive complaints regarding 70 Lake Shore Drive of loose animals, noise, odor, animal welfare, public safety and nuisance. The neighbors present expressed their concerns, and said they would follow up with contacting Zoning Enforcement Officer Peter Tartakoff, the Selectmen, and the Conservation Commission. Several neighbors express concerns for personal safety and Sgt. Waugh recommended they contact the HPD.

Dona explained that the Town of Ashland has bylaws that require a minimum of 1 acre for having a single farm animal. 70 Lake Shore Drive is less than a quarter of an acre. Dona has advised Rebecca to move the animals to a farm.

Scott will contact Linda Harrod, of the Massachusetts Department of Animal Health. Scott will be communicating the information from this meeting with the other Town departments, and keep the Board apprised of the situation.

The Board thanked the residents for their attendance and communications. Kylie thanked them for their patience and understanding that the due process must be followed.

Considering the lack of response by Rebecca regarding these continued issues, the Board instructed Scott to contact legal counsel regarding issuing monetary fines to be voted on at the next BoH meeting.

Board Member Comment

None

Julia motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:20. Kylie seconded. Passed.

Respectfully submitted:
Ann Adams, Health Department Clerk

Approval Date: 8-10-17